

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 085912
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:TNILES

APPROVED BY IO:TBROWN

S/S:DCAMP

-----093314 040225Z /75

O 040159Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085912

EXDIS

FOL RPT BONN 05974 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NY LONDON PARIS
OTTAWA 3 APR 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05974

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY PDEV AF WA GW

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: WESTERN FIVE RESPONSE TO SWAPO

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ON WALVIS BAY

REF: SECTO 3079

1. WE CONVEYED THE PROPOSED PUBLIC STATE-
MENT ON WALVIS BAY OUTLINED REFTEL TO FOREIGN OFFICE
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MUELLER ON APRIL 3. (OFFICE
DIRECTOR KREMER WAS ALSO PRESENT). MUELLER PROMISED TO
EXAMINE THE PROPOSAL AND SEND APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS
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PAGE 02 STATE 085912

TO THE FRG MISSION IN NEW YORK ASAP. MUELLER NOTED,
HOWEVER, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER MIGHT WISH TO
DISCUSS THE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN
WASHINGTON BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION.

2. CAUTIONING THAT ANYTHING HE SAID BEFORE STUDYING
THE PROPOSAL WAS TENTATIVE AND UNOFFICIAL, MUELLER

PICKED OUT TWO POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES. FIRST, HE SAID, DECLARATION THAT WALVIS BAY SHOULD BE PART OF AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA WOULD BE A VERY "NEW STEP" FOR THE CONTACT GROUP. NEVERTHELESS, AFTER SOME CLARIFICATION OF THE TIMING OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE (SO THAT IT DID NOT APPEAR TO THE SAG THAT THE STATEMENT WAS A PRECONDITION TO SWAPO'S AGREEMENT), THE FORMULATION MIGHT BE ACCEPTED BY THE FIVE.

3. THE MAJOR DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER, WAS THE "UNDERSTANDING" OUTLINED IN PARA 3. MUELLER SAID THAT "IF I AM READING THE RECORD CORRECTLY" SOUTH AFRICA HAS NEVER AGREED THAT THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE WAS NEGOTIABLE. MUELLER RECALLED THAT BOTHA HAD TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK THAT WALVIS BAY WAS NOT AT ALL AN ISSUE. MUELLER THEN ASKED IF WE HAD RECEIVED ANY PRIVATE CONCESSIONS TO THE CONTRARY. (WE TOOK THE QUESTION, NOTING THAT WE WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH CONCESSIONS.)

4. MUELLER NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, AFTER HIS MEETING WITH NYERERE LAST MONTH, HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO SEEK A WAY OUT OF THE WALVIS BAY DILEMMA. AS YET THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. GENSCHER, HE SAID, WAS CERTAIN TO BE INTERESTED IN THIS LATEST PROPOSAL AND HE PROMISED TO BRING IT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 085912

THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION ASAP.

5. COMMENT: MUELLER WAS EXTREMELY BOTHERED BY THE REFERENCE TO AN "UNDERSTANDING" IN PARA 3 REFTEL. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WAS, IN FACT, TRUE, OR HAD HE MISSED SOMETHING ALONG THE LINE. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO, WE SUSPECT MUELLER IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE US HAS GOTTEN PRIVATE CONCESSIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA OF WHICH THE FIVE ARE NOT AWARE.
STOESSEL

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE085912
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TNILES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780144-0451
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780494/aaaadbxu.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab1b7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 SECTO 3079
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3079222
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: WESTERN FIVE RESPONSE TO SWAPO REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ON WALVIS BAY
TAGS: OVIP, PDEV, AF, WA, GE, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: CAPE TOWN JOHANNESBURG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab1b7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014